



# THE HELM

Fall 2011

Published for members of the USCGC Duane Association

## 2011 REUNION ROCKLAND, MAINE



### President's Message

By Stan Barnes

Well, the 2011 Rockland reunion has come and gone. What a wonderful time we had. Along with Brent Cole and Frank Larder, I wish to thank all of you who made the trip to Rockland a huge success. Thank you for a marvelous four days that will not soon be forgotten.

You folks from the *Hamilton* were great to be with and I commend all of you for taking part in what I hope will be the first of many *Hamilton* reunions.

I can't say enough about the banquet feed. Peter, the chef,

did an outstanding job. I did not hear one complaint about the food. How about that cake? It had to be the largest and best tasting cake that we have ever had at a reunion.

I would like to thank Don MacEchern for the idea of taking a boat trip Friday afternoon. I must say, I had no idea there was a sightseeing boat in Rockland. Thanks Don.

I would also like to thank Tom Grabowski for stepping up to the plate to offer his assistance to take over as treasurer of the USCGC Duane Association. He will assume the duties of treasurer on December 1, this will give Barbara and I time to finish up all the old business associated with this year's reunion. Tom's address is, 705 Meadowbrook Road, Trafford, PA. 15085. All transactions after December 1 should be sent directly to him. A huge load will be taken off Barbara's and my back. It is not a good thing for any organization to have all your eggs in one basket. I also would like to thank my man Friday, Jim Smith, for being there, when needed, to do some of the many things that

*Continued on page 2*

### In this issue

Taney restoration .....	3
Reunion photos ....	4 & 5
Wreath laying .....	6
Ship's Store .....	7
Application .....	8

*President's message continued from page 1*

had to be done which I had no time to do.

A suggestion was brought to my attention, which I feel is a great idea, to get a few of the crew together to decide what our side trips will be next year in Tybee Island. If you are interested in helping out, please contact me as soon as possible so we can get the 2012 reunion planned out. The dates for the 2012 reunion will be November 7 – 11 at the Ocean Plaza Resort, PO Box 2880 Tybee Island, Georgia 31328, 912-786-7777. Inland rooms are \$79 and Oceanside rooms are \$119. You may make your reservations now if you wish. Ask for Kellie Lord-Zieba. As more information becomes available, it will be posted in the Helm and online.

Two other items were discussed at the business meeting. Number one was the mailing of the Helm. We decided that in order to save your association money, only the summer edition will be a mass mailing to all members on the mailing list. This edition will have all the information about the upcoming reunion. All other mailings will be to crew members who are up to date with their dues or are regular dues paying members having paid the two previous years. We have over 350 members but only about 70 pay their dues on a regular basis. You can see how much this costs. We also get back from 5 to 10 copies with each mailing due to incorrect address or zip code. Please be sure that all your information is up-to-date. It will make Tony's job much easier.

The other item discussed was the location of the 2013 and 2014 reunions. It looks as if Wildwood, NJ will be our goal for 2013 and Erie, PA. in 2014. I will start working toward them soon. Other locations for future consideration were: Lancaster, PA. New Orleans, Cocoa Beach, Branson, and Loughlin, NV.

Again, I thank you all who came to Rockland. Please let me know your feelings about this year and the upcoming year's locations, and what you would like to see done to make your USCGC Duane Association the best of the 327 cutters.

Don't forget to let us know your e-mail address or change of same.

Based on the information I have on hand, I will be

revamping our "Emergency Notification List" in the near future. This list is for use in the event of very important information that needs to be sent out to all the members. I will use area codes and contact members in that area code to contact other members in the same area code. I will start the message and be the last one to receive it back. This way I know that the message made the rounds. I will publish it in the spring edition of the Helm. Have a safe winter and I will be back to talk with you in the spring.



## Crossed the Bar

Jimmy D. Jones

Henry Keane Oct. 5, 2011

Visit the official Duane Association web site created and hosted by Rick Bogdan.  
<http://home.comcast.net/~whec33>  
 You can download a membership application and PDF copies of this newsletter.

## Taney Restoration Efforts

*By Paul Cora, Curator*



Right now, the USCGC *Taney* (WHEC-37) is in need of assistance with the repair and stabilization of her fantail deck. Back in 1980, the ship's failing wood deck was overlaid with a rubber covering which was designed to get her through her last years of active duty.

Unfortunately, over the years, this rubber covering eventually failed allowing rainwater to penetrate and rot the wood, and eventually causing the steel to deteriorate in some places. Right now we are beginning to see the effects of this with some rainwater leaks in Officer's Country. The good news is that if we act now, by removing the rubber and wood covering, and stabilizing and repairing the steel deck, we can arrest this problem for good.

The other good news is that Historic Ships in Baltimore, which oversees the preservation and display of *Taney*, has been awarded a grant of \$48,000 for this project by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. The grant is a 1-to-1 match which means that we are now trying to raise an equal amount of money from individual donors for this very important effort.

To meet the grant requirements, we have to raise these funds by the middle of October and so we are soliciting help from our Coast Guard 327 vets who we hope will want to contribute something to help preserve *Taney*. We've set up a special fund for donations to this project and this can be accessed by visiting the Historic Ships in Baltimore website: [http://www.historicships.org/project\\_support.html](http://www.historicships.org/project_support.html)

All donations toward this project are fully tax-deductible.

Additionally, for a donation of \$125 towards the deck project, we are pleased to offer once again a special limited edition commemorative plaque featuring an actual salvaged piece of *Taney's* wood deck.



# Reunion Photos

Photos by Stew Graham and Lee Tarantino



Stew Graham



The Hamilton crew with Stan Barnes (middle)



CWO3 Arnsdorf and Stan Barnes



**USCGC Eagle lays a wreath at the Hamilton site**

The crew of the training ship USCGC *Eagle* held a wreath-laying ceremony July 1, 2011 off the coast of Iceland at the final resting place of the USCGC *Hamilton*. The wreath was in memory of the crewmembers who lost their lives aboard the *Hamilton* when it was torpedoed in 1942 by a German U-Boat. The ceremony took place as the *Eagle* sailed from Reykjavik, Iceland, to Halifax, Nova Scotia.



Additionally, seven flowers were cast into the sea as a tribute from the still-living crewmembers of the cutter Tampa and the other 327-foot "Secretary Class" high-endurance cutters which served during World War II.

On Jan. 29, 1942, almost two months after Pearl Harbor, the *Hamilton* was patrolling the Icelandic coast near Reykjavik when the ship was torpedoed on the starboard side by a German U-Boat. The attack left the cutter powerless and severely damaged.

The destroyer USS *Gwinn* came alongside and removed the crewmembers. The initial torpedo explosion killed 26 Coast Guardsmen, and six later died as a result of their injuries. In all, 32 men would perish while 81 survived.

Attempts were made by several British and American vessels to salvage the cutter, but the ship capsized and sank lower into the water.

Rescue efforts were abandoned, and the destroyer USS *Ericsson* fired on it three times to send it to the bottom of the sea.

The exact location of the final resting place of the *Hamilton* was unknown until Aug. 19, 2009, when the Icelandic Coast Guard found a shipwreck 28 miles off the coast of Iceland. The wreck was later positively identified as the *Hamilton*.

The *Eagle* was the first Coast Guard ship to visit the final resting place of the *Hamilton*.

The Helm newsletter is published by the USCGC Duane Association. This is not an official US Coast Guard publication.

Jay Schmidt, Editor & Publisher  
 6 Goodwin Drive  
 Norton, MA 02766  
[jay.schmidt@comcast.net](mailto:jay.schmidt@comcast.net)

**USCGC Duane Association  
 Chain of Command**

**President**  
 Stan Barnes  
 381 Stage Road  
 Sanbornton, NH 03269  
 (603) 286-7720  
[sbarnes@metrocast.net](mailto:sbarnes@metrocast.net)

**Secretary & Treasurer**  
 TBD

**USCGC DUANE  
 SHIP'S STORE  
 ORDER FORM**

ITEM	PRICE	SIZE				
		S	M	L	XL	2X
<b>TEE SHIRTS</b>	<b>\$24.00</b>					
POLO SHIRTS	\$28.00	S	M	L	XL	2X
SWEATSHIRTS	\$32.00	S	M	L	XL	2X
WINDBREAKERS	\$45.00	S	M	L	XL	2X
HATS	\$20.00					
PATCHES	\$8.00					
SHIPPING:	\$8.00					
TOTAL:	\$ _____					

NAME:  
 ADDRESS:  
 PHONE NUMBER:  
 E MAIL ADDRESS:  
 RATE/RANK:  
 YEARS ONBOARD:

***ALL ORDERS LARGER THAN 2X WILL HAVE AN ADDITIONAL CHAGE***

**SEND YOUR ORDER TO: USCGC DUANE ASSOCIATION C/O STAN BARNES 381 STAGE ROAD, SANBORNTON, NH 03269**

Fall 2011

# Not a member? Join the USCGC Duane Association

2011 Membership and Renewal Application USCGC Duane Association

Membership runs from January to December. Dues are \$35 year.

Name

Spouse name

Your nickname (first name)

Street

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Email (required for download notification)

Years served on Duane: 19\_\_ to 19\_\_

Rank/rate while on board

Highest Rank/rate

USCG year retired

**2011 Membership**

Renewal

New Member

I wish to receive the newsletter:  Via mail (black & white)  Download (full color) from our site

Please send a check for \$35 made out to "USCGC Duane Association" to:

TBD

Please cut along lines before mailing

